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HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Andrew Jones MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

9th November 2015

Dear Andrew,

NORWICH NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

Thank you for your letter seeking my agreement to grant full approval for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road scheme, and for the proposed Department for Transport contribution of £77.49m.

2. I note that this represents an increase of £10m compared to the Department's original proposed contribution. Of course it is preferable that local authorities should be clear that it is for them to manage cost increases on project that government supports – but I note here that together with the LEP the local authority has already found an additional £20m.

3. So given the impressive benefits to be realised from this project I am content to provide approval as requested. This is on the understanding that the increased cost can still be met by Department for Transport from within existing budgets for local transport schemes.

4. I also note that the proposal for the government to increase its contribution became public knowledge before Treasury was given a chance to express a view. I appreciate that this project is unusual in that it only now needs approval because of the increased cost – however I would be grateful if you could ensure in future

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that Treasury is involved before anything is said publicly on decisions for which our consent will be required.

*Your ever,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Hands".

A small, handwritten mark in blue ink, possibly a stylized "L" or a signature.

GREG HANDS

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